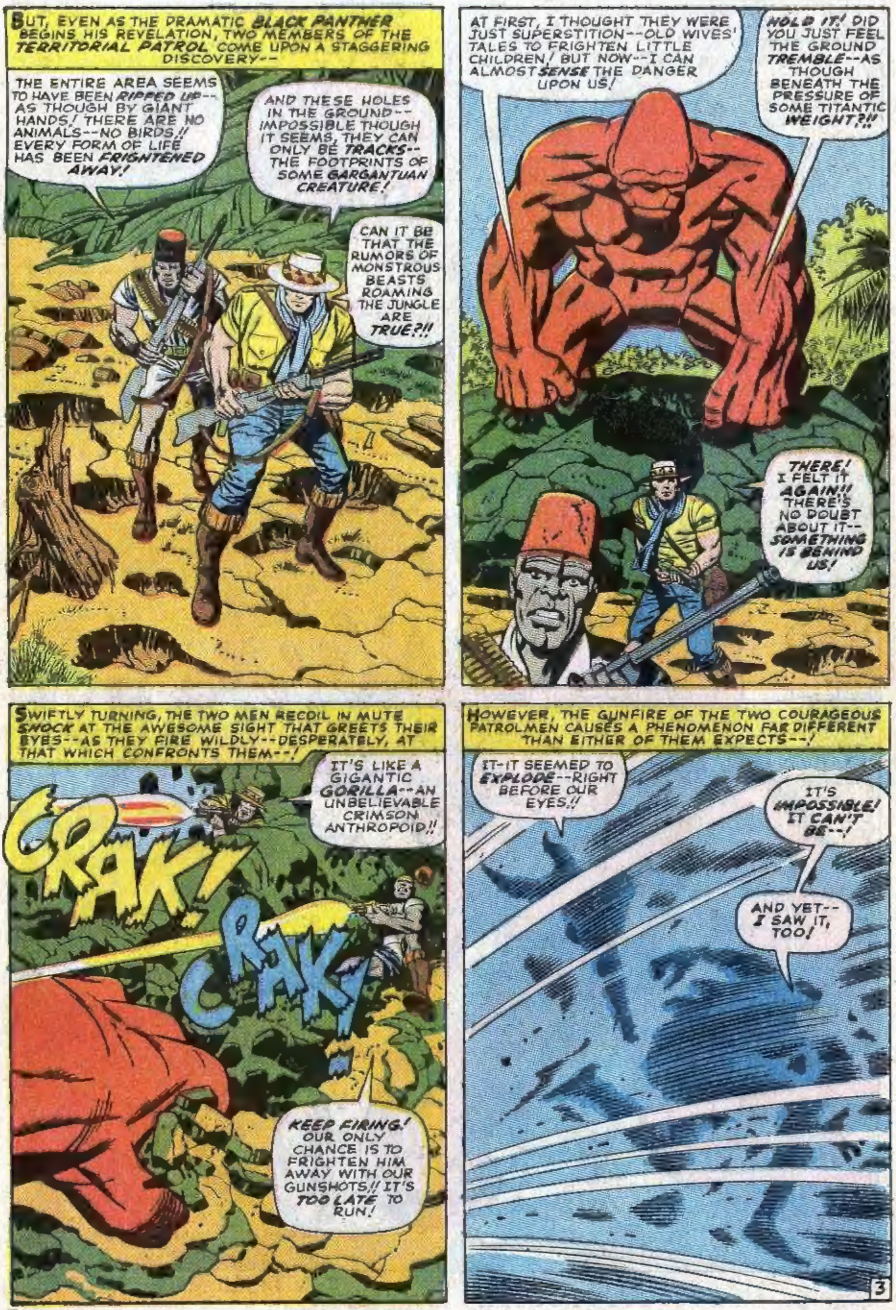
THE WORLD'S GREATEST COMIC MAGAZINE!
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
MARVEL COMICS GROUP
Fantastic Four
12¢
53 AUG
THE WAY IT BEGAN!

THE FANTASTIC FOUR is published by CANAM PUBLISHERS SALES CORP. OFFICE OF PUBLICATION: 625 MADISON AVENUE, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10022. Second class mail privileges authorized at New York, N. Y. Additional entry at Meriden, Conn. Published monthly, except November, semi-monthly. Copyright 1966 by CANAM PUBLISHERS SALES CORP., 625 Madison Avenue, New York, N. Y. 10022. Vol. 1, No. 53, AUGUST 1966 issue. Price 12¢ per copy. Subscription rate $1.75 and $2.25 Canada for 12 issues including postage. Foreign subscription $3.25 in American funds. Prices do not include King Size Special November Issue. No similarity between any of the names, characters, persons and/or institutions appearing in this magazine with those of any living or dead person or institution is intended, and any such similarity which may exist is purely coincidental. Printed in the U.S.A. by The Eastern Color Printing Co., Waterbury 20, Conn. Martin Goodman, Publisher.

THE FABULOUS F.F. LEARN THE SECRET OF THE BLACK PANTHER
"THE WAY IT BEGAN...!"
HAVING SUCCESSFULLY EVADED ALL THE UNCANNY TRAPS OF THE BLACK PANTHER, THE TRIUMPHANT FANTASTIC FOUR, ACCOMPANIED BY WYATT WINGFOOT, ARE AWARDED A HEROES' CEREMONY---
LET THE DANCE OF FRIENDSHIP BEGIN!
THOUGH THE WAKANDA TRIBE LIVES IN THE TRADITION OF THEIR FOREFATHERS, THEY POSSESS MODERN, SUPER-SCIENTIFIC WONDERS WE CAN ONLY MARVEL AT! THERE'S AN INCREDIBLE MYSTERY HERE--AND ONLY THE BLACK PANTHER HIMSELF KNOWS ALL THE ANSWERS!
THEY ARE NOT THE ORDINARY NATIVE TRIBE THEY SEEM TO BE!
SHEESH! A BUNCH'A FRED ASTAIRES THEY AIN'T!
RELAX, BEN! IT'S BETTER'N BEING SHOT AT BY THEM!
SCRIPT: STAN LEE
ART: JACK KIRBY
INKS: JOE SINNOTT
LETTERING: ARTIE SIMEK
NATIVE DANCES: THE BALLET FORBUSH TERPSICHOREAN TROUPE
1

I STILL DON'T GET IT! THEY TOSSED A BUNCH'A SCIENCE-FICTION GIZMOS AT US THAT DOC DOOM WOULD'A BEEN PROUD OF USIN'!
AND NOW THEY'RE ACTIN' LIKE THEY'RE ALL CHARGED UP ON ACCOUNT'A JUST INVENTIN' THE WHEEL!
DON'T WORRY, BEN-- OL' REED WON'T CUT OUT OF HERE TILL HE GETS HIMSELF SOME ANSWERS!
A FAT LOTTA GOOD THAT'LL DO! NOBODY'LL BE ABLE TO UNDERSTAND 'EM EXCEPT HIM!
AWRIGHT, BREAK IT UP--BREAK IT UP! WHAT'RE YA ALL GAPIN' AT, ANYWAY?
AINTCHA NEVER SEEN A BASHFUL, BLUE-EYED THING BEFORE?!!
LET'S GO, BEN! THE BLACK PANTHER IS INVITING US TO HIS PRIVATE QUARTERS!
WOW! WOTTA PAD! I'LL BET EVEN HUGH HEFNER COULDN'T IMPROVE ON THIS LAYOUT!
MAN! IF YA GOTTA LIVE IN THE JUNGLE, THIS SURE IS THE WAY TA DO IT! THERE MUST BE A LOTTA DOUGH IN BLACK PANTHERIN'!
STILL ANOTHER EXAMPLE OF THE OLD AND THE NEW, DARLING! LOOK AT THAT ELABORATE STEREO MUSIC SYSTEM--COMPLETE WITH TAPE RECORDER!
I JUST CAN'T BELIEVE WE'RE IN THE HEART OF THE JUNGLE!
MY GUESTS AND I DO NOT WISH TO BE DISTURBED!
YOU SEEM PUZZLED BY WHAT YOU HAVE SEEN! YOU SHOULDN'T BE!
AFTER ALL, I CAN AFFORD TO PAMPER MYSELF--TO INDULGE MY EVERY WHIM--ENJOY EVERY LUXURY! I'M ONE OF THE RICHEST MEN IN THE WORLD!
REMEMBER, I'VE SEEN, I BELIEVE YOU! BUT, THERE'S MORE TO YOUR STORY THAN MERE WEALTH..
YOU ARE PERCEPTIVE INDEED, RICHARDS!
ACTUALLY, THE BLACK PANTHER LIVES UNDER A TRAGIC CURSE!
BUT, MY TALE REALLY BEGINS WITH THE SPEAR AND SHIELD OF MY FATHER--T'CHAKA, THE WARRIOR KING!
2


BUT, EVEN AS THE DRAMATIC BLACK PANTHER BEGINS HIS REVELATION, TWO MEMBERS OF THE TERRITORIAL PATROL COME UPON A STAGGERING DISCOVERY--
THE ENTIRE AREA SEEMS TO HAVE BEEN RIPPED UP-- AS THOUGH BY GIANT HANDS! THERE ARE NO ANIMALS--NO BIRDS!! EVERY FORM OF LIFE HAS BEEN FRIGHTENED AWAY!
AND THESE HOLES IN THE GROUND-- IMPOSSIBLE THOUGH IT SEEMS, THEY CAN ONLY BE TRACKS-- THE FOOTPRINTS OF SOME GARGANTUAN CREATURE!
CAN IT BE THAT THE RUMORS OF MONSTROUS BEASTS ROAMING THE JUNGLE ARE TRUE?!!
AT FIRST, I THOUGHT THEY WERE JUST SUPERSTITION--OLD WIVES' TALES TO FRIGHTEN LITTLE CHILDREN! BUT NOW--I CAN ALMOST SENSE THE DANGER UPON US!
HOLD IT! DID YOU JUST FEEL THE GROUND TREMBLE--AS THOUGH BENEATH THE PRESSURE OF SOME TITANTIC WEIGHT?!!
THERE! I FELT IT AGAIN!! THERE'S NO DOUBT ABOUT IT-- SOMETHING IS BEHIND US!
SWIFTLY TURNING, THE TWO MEN RECOIL IN MUTE SHOCK AT THE AWESOME SIGHT THAT GREETS THEIR EYES--AS THEY FIRE WILDLY--DESPERATELY, AT THAT WHICH CONFRONTS THEM--!
CRAK!
IT'S LIKE A GIGANTIC GORILLA--AN UNBELIEVABLE CRIMSON ANTHROPOID!!
CRAK!
KEEP FIRING! OUR ONLY CHANCE IS TO FRIGHTEN HIM AWAY WITH OUR GUNSHOTS!! IT'S TOO LATE TO RUN!
HOWEVER, THE GUNFIRE OF THE TWO COURAGEOUS PATROLMEN CAUSES A PHENOMENON FAR DIFFERENT THAN EITHER OF THEM EXPECTS--!
IT-IT SEEMED TO EXPLODE--RIGHT BEFORE OUR EYES!!
IT'S IMPOSSIBLE! IT CAN'T BE--!
AND YET-- I SAW IT, TOO!
3

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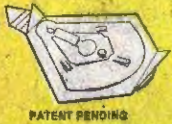

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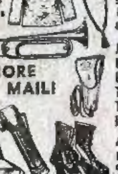

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THE GIANT ELEPHANT HURLS TREES ABOUT AS THOUGH THEY ARE MERE TWIGS! BUT, HE DOES NOT PURSUE US! WE ARE VIRTUALLY BENEATH THE NOTICE OF A CREATURE SO HUGE!
BUT WHERE DID IT COME FROM-- AND WHAT IS IT?? WE'VE GOT TO FIND OUT!! WE'VE GOT TO LEARN WHAT'S HAPPENING IN THERE--LEARN HOW MANY MORE OF THOSE CRIMSON MONSTERS THERE ARE!
THIS IS THE EDGE OF WAKANDA COUNTRY! PERHAPS THE ANSWER LIES THERE--!
AND, SPEAKING OF THE WAKANDAS, IT'S TIME ONCE AGAIN TO REJOIN THE BLACK PANTHER AS HE CONTINUES HIS NARRATIVE--
MY FATHER WAS THE GREATEST, WISEST CHIEFTAIN IN ALL OF AFRICA!
AND, HIS SKILL AS A HUNTER WAS SECOND TO NONE!
YAWWWWW!
SO! I'M BORING YOU, AM I?
BEN! CUT THAT OUT!
AWW, I CAN'T HELP IT! I SAW THIS IN A MILLION JUNGLE MOVIES!
SUPPOSE I TELL YOU YOU'RE SITTING ON TWENTY MILLION DOLLARS!
DO YOU MEAN THIS MARBLE BENCH BENEATH US?
I DIDN'T EVEN PAY ANY ATTENTION TO IT! BUT, MARBLE ISN'T WORTH THAT MUCH MONEY!
LOOK CLOSELY, JOHNNY! THAT ISN'T MARBLE --!
YOU'RE RIGHT, SUE! IT'S SOME SORT OF GLISTENING METALLIC ORE!
SAY IT IN ENGLISH-- JUST FER ONCE!
THE NAME OF THAT METAL IS VIBRANIUM!
EVEN I KNOW THAT COMES FROM THE WORD VIBRATE! WHAT'S IT DO--SHIVER UP A STORM IF YA TOUCH IT?
EXACTLY THE OPPOSITE, IRASCIBLE ONE! IT ABSORBS VIBRATIONS-- YOU MIGHT EVEN SAY IT SWALLOWS THEM!
BUT, WHAT MAKES IT SO VALUABLE?
DON'T YOU SEE, DEAR--?
IT CAN BE WORTH A FORTUNE TO OUR MISSILE PROGRAM ALONE! ROCKETS MADE OF VIBRANIUM WOULD NEVER GO OFF COURSE DUE TO VIBRATIONS!
THAT IS CORRECT, RICHARDS!
5

OUR VIRTUALLY INEXHAUSTIBLE SUPPLY OF VIBRANIUM COMES FROM THAT SACRED MOUND WHICH HAS BORDERED THE LAND OF THE WAKANDAS SINCE THE DAWN OF TIME!
EVERY WAKANDA CHIEFTAIN IS PLEDGED TO PROTECT THE SACRED VIBRANIUM WITH HIS LIFE--JUST AS MY FATHER WAS SO PLEDGED!
ALL HAIL T'CHAKA--GUARDIAN OF THE ETERNAL PEAK!
"MY FATHER WAS THE GREATEST CHIEFTAIN OF ALL! WISE IN COUNCIL--JUST IN JUDGEMENT--AND BRAVE IN BATTLE!"
"WHEREVER THERE WAS DANGER, THERE TOO WAS T'CHAKA--ALWAYS IN THE FOREFRONT--!"
"TO ME, HE WAS MORE THAN FATHER--MORE THAN WARRIOR--TO ME, HE WAS LIKE A GOD!"
ONE DAY I TOO SHALL BE CHIEFTAIN, FATHER!
AND I SHALL BE WORTHY OF ALL YOU HAVE TAUGHT ME!
BUT NOW, IT IS BEDTIME FOR THE LITTLEST CHIEFTAIN OF ALL!
LOOK, KIDDO--WHY DON'TCHA SAVE YER-SELF THE TROUBLE? I KNOW THE REST BY HEART! EVERY-THING WUZ HUNKY DORY UNTIL THE GREEDY IVORY HUNTERS MADE THE SCENE!
BEN! FOR THE LAST TIME, WILL YOU REMEMBER THAT WE'RE HIS GUESTS?!
DO NOT BE CON-CERNED, REED RICHARDS! I REALIZE MY TALE MAY SOUND CONTRIVED TO YOU!
YOU AINT JUST WHISTLIN' WATUSI, PAL!
YER TALKIN' TO A GUY WHO SEEN EVERY TARZAN MOVIE AT LEAST A DOZEN TIMES! AND I CAN RECITE YA HALF'A THE BOMBA, THE JUNGLE BOY BOOKS BY HEART!
SO YER LITTLE BEDTIME STORY AINT IMPRESSIN' ME! LET'S GIT TO THE PUNCHLINE, HUH?
THAT'S ENOUGH, BEN!
6

I DO NOT MIND THE THING'S
PERHAPS MY TALE DOES FOLLOW THE ... FAR MORE DANGEROUS--FAR MORE EVIL--!
IVORY HUNTER
HE CALLED HIMSELF KLAW, THE MASTER OF SOUND! ... NO MAN ... A WEAPON WHICH COULD CONVERT SOUND
THE FOOLS! THEY MOCKED ME WHEN I SAID THAT VIBRANIUM EXISTED! BUT NOW I HAVE FOUND IT, HERE IN THIS JUNGLE--AND, IT MUST BE MINE!
VIBRANIUM!! THE ONE ELEMENT I NEED-- ... MY SOUND TRANSFORMER-- ... ENERGY OF SOUND INTO ANY LIVING FORM I DESIRE!
"I STILL REMEMBER THE SIGHT OF KLAW, THE UNSMILING--KLAW, THE MERCILESS--ORDERING MY FATHER TO GIVE UP OUR SACRED MOUND--OUR PRECIOUS ETERNAL ROCK--!"
YOU HAVE NO CHOICE! ... OF THE WORLD'S ONLY SUPPLY OF VIBRANIUM, ALL THE RICHES OF EARTH SHALL BE MINE!
BEGONE! THIS LAND IS OURS! SO SPEAKS T'CHAKA.
THEN T'CHAKA SHALL SPEAK NO MORE!
NOW!
"IT WAS THE ... GUNFIRE--A SOUND I ... THE DAYS OF MY LIFE."
CRACK! CRACK!
FATHER
AVENGED!
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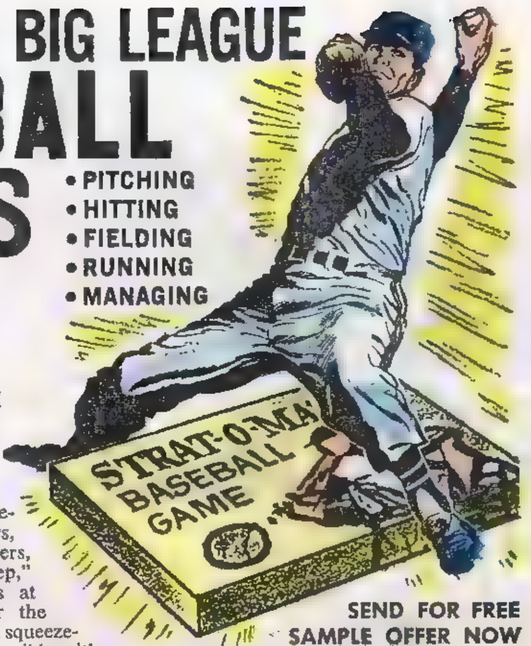

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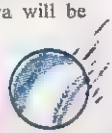

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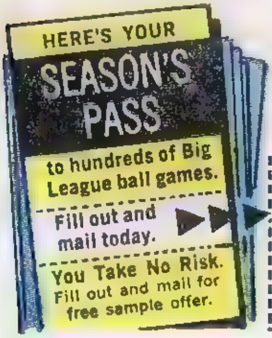

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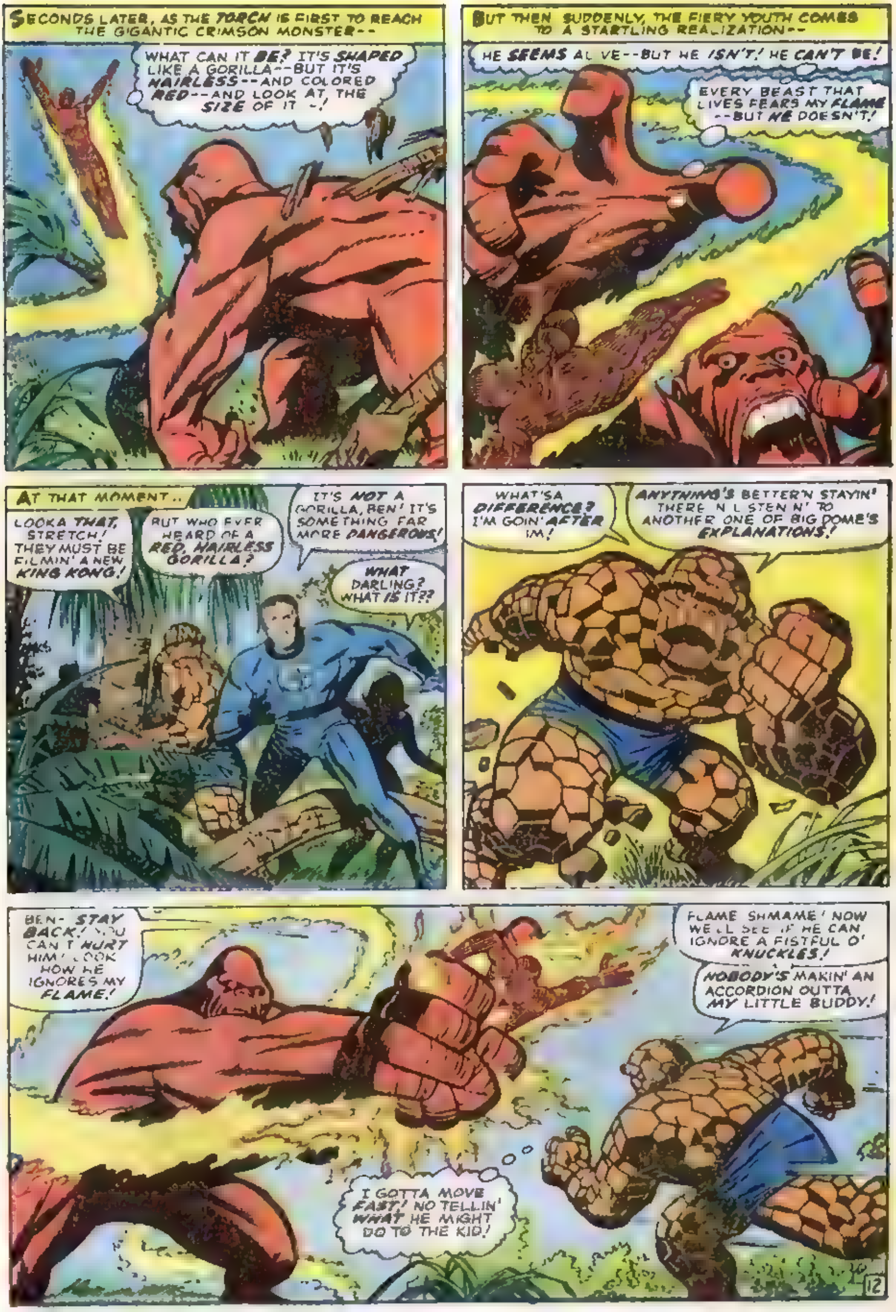
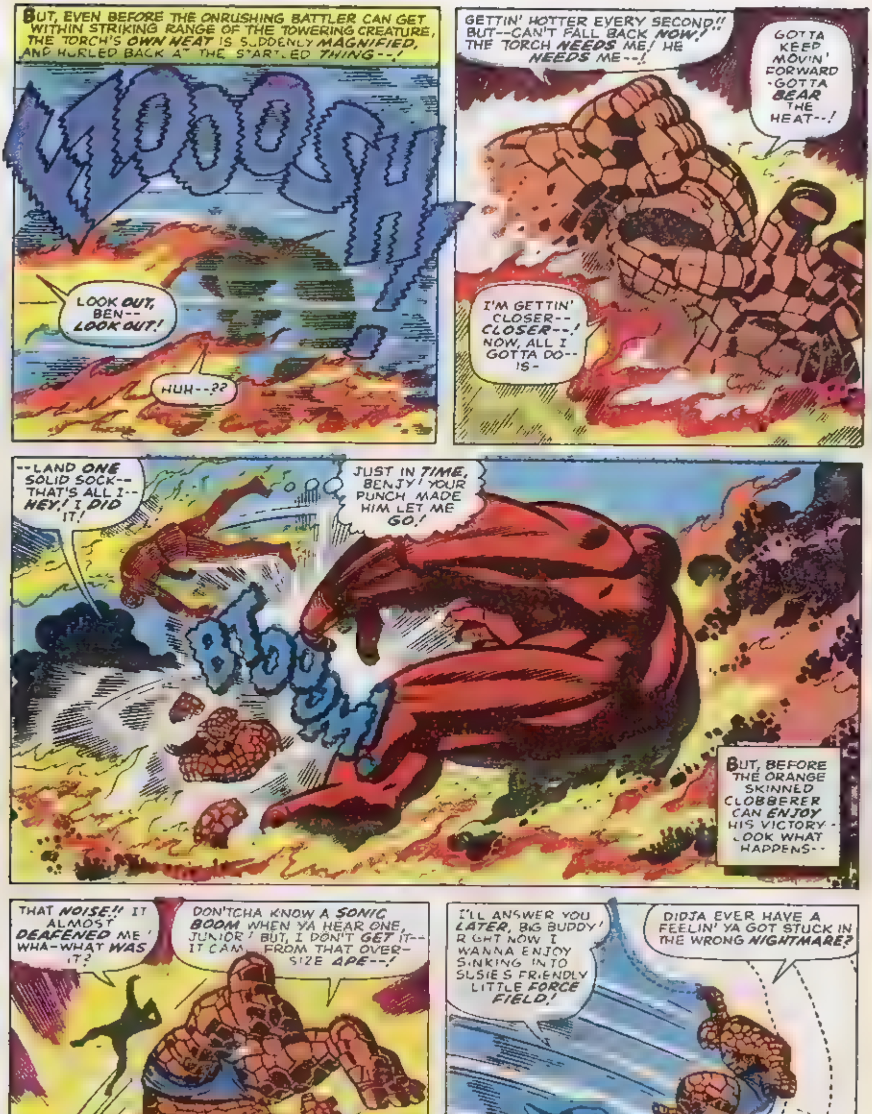
MY PEOPLE-- FLEEING FOR THEIR LIVES! OUR VILLAGE IN FLAMES!!
THIS IS NO MAN I SEEK TO BATTLE! TRULY, HE IS EVIL INCARNATE!! HIS VERY PRESENCE BEFOULS THE EARTH UPON WHICH HE STANDS!
OUT! DRIVE THEM OUT! THE MOUND OF VIBRANIUM MUST BELONG TO KLAW! ONLY I AM DESTINED TO BE SUPREME! ONLY I AM MASTER OF SOUND!
"WITHOUT CONSCIOUS THOUGHT, I AIMED THE FEARSOME OBJECT IN MY ARMS DIRECTLY AHEAD OF ME --WHILE MY FINGER BEGAN TO TIGHTEN ON THE TRIGGER, AS I CRIED--"
YOU HAVE SLAIN MY FATHER! YOU HAVE PUT THE TORCH TO OUR VILLAGE! AND NOW YOU MUST PAY--!
THE SOUND BLASTER!! HE'S ABOUT TO FIRE IT!
STOP HIM! HE DOESN'T KNOW WHAT HE'S DOING--!!
TOO LATE! HE DETONATED IT!
IT WAS AN ACCIDENT! HE DOESN'T EVEN KNOW HOW TO AIM IT! THE SHOT FELL SHORT!
I'LL MAKE SURE HE GETS NO SECOND CHANCE!
YOU LITTLE FOOL! YOU CANNOT REALIZE THE FORCES YOU ARE TAMPERING WITH! THE DEVICE YOU HOLD CONVERTS SOUND INTO PURE ENERGY! IN THE WRONG HANDS, IT CAN WREAK UNMENTIONABLE HAVOC!!
YOURS ARE THE HANDS THAT ARE WRONG, EVIL ONE--NOT MINE!
LOOK OUT! HE'S GONNA FIRE AGAIN!!
THE LITTLE SAVAGE WOULDN'T DARE!
I SEE YOU STARTING TO SQUEEZE YOUR TRIGGER! BUT, YOU ARE TOO LATE--!
THIS IS FOR T'CHAKA-- THE WARRIOR KING!
MY HAND!
ZAK
9

RUN, KLAW-- RUN! IT'S CERTAIN DEATH TO REMAIN HERE-- WHILE HE HOLDS THE SOUND BLASTER!
BUT--THE VIBRANIUM!! I CAN'T GO WITHOUT THE VIBRANIUM--!!
YOU'LL HAVE TO! WE'RE NOT STAYING TO DIG IT UP FOR YOU! WE WANNA LIVE!
YOU'VE SHATTERED MY HAND--LOST ME MY MEN--BUT I'LL RETURN! THE VIBRANIUM WILL YET BE MINE!
THAT WAS TEN YEARS AGO--TO THE DAY
I COULD NOT THEN PURSUE HIM FOR THE SHOCK OF FIRING THOSE TWO MIGHTY BURSTS HAD DRAINED MY YOUTHFUL STRENGTH!
BUT, I KNOW HE WILL RETURN--I CAN SENSE THAT THE TIME HAS COME!
AND THIS TIME--I SHALL BE READY!
Y'KNOW--THAT STORY'S JUST PLAIN NUTTY ENUFF TO BE TRUE!
IT IS TRUE! I SOLD SMALL PORTIONS OF VIBRANIUM TO VARIOUS SCIENTIFIC FOUNDATIONS ENABLING ME TO AMASS A FORTUNE--THE EQUAL OF ANY ON EARTH!
SO THAT'S HOW YA COULD AFFORD THAT FAR OUT MECHANIZED JUNGLE OF YOURS!
THAT? I ... DID IT FOR A LARK!
IT WAS A SIMPLE EXERCISE, TO TEST MY SKILL FOR I HAD ATTENDED THE FINE UNIVERSITIES OF BOTH HEMISPHERES.
HOW ABOUT YER PANTHER POWER--THE WAY YA SEE IN THE DARK N STUFF--?
A SECRET HANDED DOWN FROM CHIEFTAIN TO CHIEFTAIN!
WE EAT CERTAIN HERBS--AND UNDERGO RIGOROUS RITUALS--OF WHICH I AM FORBIDDEN TO SPEAK!
BUT, WHY THE HECK DID'JA TRY TO TRAP US?!!
I HAD TO! YOU FOUR WERE THE SUPREME TEST!
IF I COULD FIGHT YOU TO A STANDSTILL, THEN I AM READY FOR--KLAW!
ALTHOUGH HE HAS KEPT HIDDEN FROM ME ALL THESE YEARS, I KNOW HE IS PLANNING TO
WAIT!!
IT HAS COME! THE LONG AWAITED, CRITICAL DANGER SIGNAL!!
WHEEEEE WHEEEEE WHEEEEE
CLICK
NOW, WHAT?
WOTTA DEAL! YA MOVE ONE OF THEM CRAZY PANTHER STATUES AND THE WHOLE BLASTED WALL
QUIET! THIS SENSA-SCOPE IS RECORDING THE APPROACH OF A NAMELESS MENACE FROM THE DIRECTION OF OUR SACRED MOUND!
KLAW HAS RETURNED!
10

AND, JUST A SHORT DISTANCE AWAY LUMBERING AWESOMELY INTO WAKANDA TERRITORY, WE SEE--
A GIGANTIC CRIMSON GORILLA! THE FORCE CANNON-- FIRE IT! FIRE!!
WHOOM!
IT IS PREDICTED THAT KLAW, THE SOUND MASTER, WILL RETURN THIS DAY! BUT SUCH A SIGHT AS THIS--NONE COULD HAVE EXPECTED!
WE MUST STAND FAST WHILE WE MAY!
THE BLACK PANTHER WILL BE HERE WITHIN MINUTES!
WHAT IS AMISS? WHY DOES THE FORCE GUN NOT STOP HIM--??
EVEN AS THE FORCE BOLT STRIKES HIM, HE SEEMS TO BE GATHERING ITS ENERGY WITHIN HIS BODY--AND NOW--IT-IT IS NOT POSSIBLE--!
--HE TOOK THE FULL IMPACT OF THE BLOW--AND HURLS IT BACK AT US!
HE HAS DEMOLISHED OUR ADVANCE OUTPOST-- WITH OUR OWN WEAPON!
WE DON'T KNOW WHAT'S UP, PANTHER-- BUT IT'LL BE MORE FUN FIGHTING WITH YOU THAN AGAINST YOU!
THERE IS NO NEED FOR YOU TO SHARE THE DANGER! THIS IS A BATTLE FOR THE SON OF T'CHAKA!
HENCE, I SHALL DON MY RITUALISTIC GARB, AS THE BLACK PANTHER STALKS AGAIN!
IF EVERYONE ELSE CAN BE A CORNBALL, SO CAN I!
A LITTLE ACTION WILL BE GOOD FOR JOHNNY--TO STOP HIM FROM BROODING OVER CRYSTAL
WAIT FOR ME, REED! WHATEVER IS OUT THERE--WE'LL FACE IT TOGETHER!
FLAME ON!
IT'S CLOBBERIN' TIME!
I'VE COME THIS FAR WITH THE F.F.--I MIGHT AS WELL GO ALL THE WAY!


SECONDS LATER, AS THE TORCH IS FIRST TO REACH THE GIGANTIC CRIMSON MONSTER--
WHAT CAN IT BE? IT'S SHAPED LIKE A GORILLA--BUT IT'S HAIRLESS--AND COLORED RED--AND LOOK AT THE SIZE OF IT--!
BUT THEN SUDDENLY, THE FIERY YOUTH COMES TO A STARTLING REALIZATION--
HE SEEMS ALIVE--BUT HE ISN'T! HE CAN'T BE!
EVERY BEAST THAT LIVES FEARS MY FLAME --BUT HE DOESN'T!
AT THAT MOMENT..
LOOKA THAT, STRETCH! THEY MUST BE FILMIN' A NEW KING KONG!
BUT WHO EVER HEARD OF A RED, HAIRLESS GORILLA?
IT'S NOT A GORILLA, BEN! IT'S SOMETHING FAR MORE DANGEROUS!
WHAT DARLING? WHAT IS IT??
WHAT'SA DIFFERENCE? I'M GOIN' AFTER 'IM!
ANYTHING'S BETTER'N STAYIN' THERE N LISTENIN' TO ANOTHER ONE OF BIG DOME'S EXPLANATIONS!
BEN-STAY BACK! YOU CAN'T HURT HIM! LOOK HOW HE IGNORES MY FLAME!
FLAME SHMAME! NOW WE'LL SEE IF HE CAN IGNORE A FISTFUL O' KNUCKLES!
NOBODY'S MAKIN' AN ACCORDION OUTTA MY LITTLE BUDDY!
I GOTTA MOVE FAST! NO TELLIN' WHAT HE MIGHT DO TO THE KID!
12



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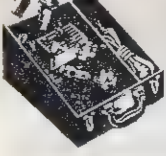

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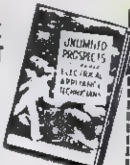

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NO! IT'S MORE UNCANNY THAN THAT! IT'S SOMETHING THAT CANNOT EXIST!
RUMBLINGS! IN THE DISTANCE! COMING CLOSER--
JOHNNY'S LAPSED INTO UNCONSCIOUSNESS! BUT HE'LL BE ALL RIGHT! IT'S JUST THE SHOCK OF HIS FLAME BEING SNUFFED OUT SO SUDDENLY!
THANK HEAVENS THAT'S ALL IT IS! BUT, WHAT DO WE DO NEXT?
ME, I FEEL LIKE FINDIN' OUT ONCE 'N FER ALL IF BUFFERIN WORKS FASTER THAN ASPIRIN!
QUICK--TAKE COVER! SOMETHING IS COMING! JUDGING BY ALL THE SIGNS, IT'S SOMETHING ENORMOUS!
THERE'S NO PLACE WE CAN RUN TO! WE'LL JUST HAVE TO STAND FAST AND FIGHT IT!
BUT, REED-- WHAT IS IT? WHAT WAS THAT HORRIBLE RED CREATURE?
YOU SOUNDED BEFORE AS IF YOU KNEW!
I DO KNOW! THOUGH I ALMOST WISH I DIDN'T!
WHATEVER'S HEADING THIS WAY NOTHIN'S SO BIG THAT I CAN'T STOP 'IM WITH A ROCK IN THE HEAD!
YOU'RE
DON'T YOU REALIZE --IT MAGNIFIES WHATEVER STRIKES IT--AND FEEDS THAT SAME FORCE BACK--MORE DEADLY THAN EVER --TO ITS OWN ATTACKER!
BUT WHY
THINK, BEN!! HOW CAN YOU HURT--A SOUND?
A SOUND?!!
EXACTLY! DON'T YOU REMEMBER THE BLACK PANTHER TELLING US THAT KLAW CALLED HIMSELF THE MASTER OF SOUND!
DIDN'T HE HAVE A METHOD OF CONVERTING SOUND INTO LIVING MATTER?!
KLAW COULD NEVER CREATE HIS DEMONIACAL SOUND MONSTERS WITHOUT THE AID OF MANY COMPLEX SCIENTIFIC MACHINES!
AND, IN ALL OF WAKANDA TERRITORY, THERE IS BUT ONE PLACE WHERE SUCH EQUIPMENT COULD BE HIDDEN--!
THE ONE I
DESTROY!
14

SOFTLY, SILENTLY, THE BLACK PANTHER DROPS TO THE GROUND A FEW MINUTES LATER, LANDING WITH THE GRACE AND EASE OF A TRUE FELINE--!
THIS PORTION OF MY BELOVED JUNGLE--LAID WASTE BY THE POWER OF KLAW, AND HIS DEADLY CREATIONS!
BUT, FROM THIS MOMENT ON --HE WILL DESTROY NO MORE!
THIS HIDDEN CAVE--THE LARGEST IN WAKANDA--HE COULD SAFELY CONCEAL ANYTHING WITHIN ITS DEPTHS!
EVEN IN THE SHADOWS--EVEN IN THE GLOOM--HE IS UNMISTAKABLE! I HAVE FOUND MY QUARRY!
FIRST, I'LL DISPOSE OF THESE TWO UNSUSPECTING GUARDS!
AND THEN, THE REAL CHALLENGE WILL COME--WHEN I'M FACE-TO-FACE WITH KLAW, AT LONG LAST!
I WAS RIGHT! IT IS HIM!
AND THAT MUST BE HIS MASTER CONVERSION SYSTEM FOR CHANGING BASIC SOUND INTO LIVING MATTER!
AT LAST I'M READY TO LAUNCH MY MAIN ATTACK!
FOR YOU, KLAW, THERE SHALL BE NO MORE ATTACKS! FOR YOU THERE IS ONLY RETRIBUTION!
THAT VOICE!! I LAST HEARD ONE LIKE IT TEN YEARS AGO--BUT I CAN NEVER FORGET IT!
THE BLACK PANTHER! THE ONE WHOSE NAME IS MUTTERED IN WHISPERS THRUOUT AFRICA! I THOUGHT YOU WERE JUST A LEGEND--A MYTH!! BUT--YOU DO EXIST!
I EXIST! I HAVE EXISTED, WAITED, PLANNED, ALL THIS TIME--UNTIL THIS DAY WHEN MY FATHER'S DEATH SHALL BE AVENGED!
NEVER! IT IS YOU WHO SHALL PERISH! FOR I AM STRONGER NOW THAN BEFORE!
AND, THANKS TO YOU, I CARRY A DEADLY WEAPON IN PLACE OF A RIGHT HAND!
15

CONTINUED AFTER NEXT PAGE

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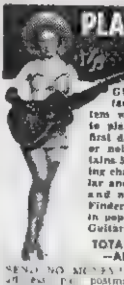

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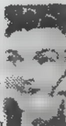

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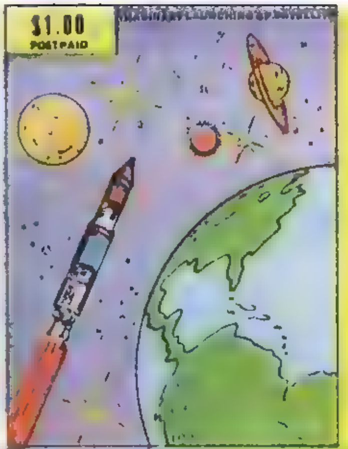
WHOOM!
IF THERE'S ONE THING THAT REALLY BUGS ME, IT'S A WISE-GUY ELEPHANT!
IT'S THE ONES LIKE YOU THAT MAKE A JOKE OUTTA "BE KIND TO DUMB ANIMALS WEEK"!
BUT, I GOT NEWS FOR YA, BIG BOY! YA MADE ONE REAL BAD MISTAKE--
JUST BECAUSE I GOT A SWEET, INNERCENT, BLUE-EYED FACE, YA THOUGHT BASHFUL BENJAMIN WOULD BE A PUSHOVER--!
BUT, NOW I'M GONNA--
HEY! WHAT'S GOIN' ON?? THIS IS CRAZY!! IT-IT DON'T MAKE SENSE--!
THE MORE PRESSURE I PUT ON 'IM, THE MORE IT HURTS ME--JUST LIKE HE'S REFLECTIN' IT ALL BACK--LIKE A MIRROR!
GOTTA LET UP ON 'IM! MY OWN STRENGTH ALMOST FINISHED ME OFF--!
HE'S STARTIN' TO FADE AWAY--LIKE SOME KINDA GHOST!! BUT HE WUZ REAL--I KNOW HE WUZ--!
WYATT! THE ELEPHANT'S GONE! SEE IF BEN NEEDS ANY HELP--WHILE I LOWER SUE AND JOHNNY TO THE GROUND!
HE SEEMS ALL RIGHT, MR. RICHARDS! HE'S STARTING TO GET UP!
'COURSE I'M AWRIGHT! I WUZ JUST TRYIN' TO FIND ME A FOUR-LEAF CLOVER!

LEGGO MY PAW, KID! I CAN GIT UP BY MY LONESOME!
I WOULDN'T HAVE BELIEVED ANYBODY COULD BATTLE A GIANT ELEPHANT TO A STANDSTILL!
THEY CAN'T! BUT I AIN'T ANYBODY!
I MUST'A BEEN UNCONSCIOUS! WHAT HAPPENED TO BIG BEN?
HE'S ALL RIGHT, JOHNNY! HE TRIED TO TACKLE THAT CRIMSON ELEPHANT SINGLE-HANDED, EVEN THOUGH I WARNED HIM IT WAS HOPELESS!
YOU SEE, BEN--THERE ARE SOME PROBLEMS THAT RAW STRENGTH ALONE JUST WON'T SOLVE!
WELL, IF YA EXPECT TO GIT RID'A THEM LIVIN' ANIMAL CRACKERS BY RECITIN' POETRY AT 'EM COUNT ME OUT!
REED, DARLING--WHAT CAN WE DO? IT ALL SEEMS SO HOPELESS!
THE BLACK PANTHER! HE'S THE ONE WHO HOLDS THE KEY TO ALL THIS! BUT--WHERE IS HE? WHAT HAPPENED TO HIM?
REED RICHARDS MAY NOT KNOW WHAT HAPPENED TO THE MYSTERIOUS WAKANDA CHIEFTAIN, BUT WE DO--DON'T WE--?
IT ISN'T POSSIBLE! HE'S OUT-FIGHTING MY OWN GIANT PANTHER!
HIS SPEED--HIS STRENGTH--HE'S LIKE A HUMAN PANTHER HIMSELF!
RRRR
ENOUGH! I SEE NOW THAT I MAY TOY WITH YOU NO LONGER! IT IS TIME FOR MY SUPREME WEAPON TO BE BROUGHT INTO PLAY!
HE MERELY PUSHED A LEVER--AND THE BEAST IS VANISHING--AS THOUGH HE HAS NEVER EXISTED!
IT WAS NO ILLUSION, SON OF T'CHAKA! I HAVE MERELY RECONVERTED HIM--BACK TO BASIC SOUND!
AND NOW, USING MY SOUND-POWERED FORCE GLOVE, I'LL CHANGE THE BASIC STRUCTURE OF YOUR BODY!
THEN, WITH THE BLACK PANTHER GONE, I'LL SEIZE THE TREASURE OF THE WAKANDAS! THE SACRED MOUND OF VIBRANIUM WILL BE MINE--AT LAST!
NEVER--WHILE A TRIBESMAN LIVES!
THEN THEY
DIE--STARTING WITH YOU--!

BUT, BEFORE THE MAD MASTER OF SOUND CAN ACTIVATE HIS STRANGE WEAPON, THE BLACK PANTHER, MOVING AS SWIFTLY AS HIS NAMESAKE, HURLS THE FATAL POWER SWITCH WHICH HIS NIMBLE FINGERS HAD BEEN SILENTLY GROPING FOR!
MY CONVERTER! IT-IT'S BEING BLOWN APART!!
IT HAS TO END THIS WAY-- IN THE NAME OF JUSTICE!
YOU DID NOT REALIZE-- I AM A SCIENTIST, TOO--!
THUS, I COULD TELL WHICH LEVER TO THROW IN ORDER TO OVERLOAD YOUR DELICATE ELECTRONIC CIRCUITS!
AND NOW, ONLY MY PANTHER SPEED CAN SAVE ME FROM THE HOLOCAUST WHICH IS ABOUT TO BEFALL--!
IT'S OVER! THE CAVE IS DESTROYED! NEVERMORE SHALL THE MASTER OF SOUND'S UNCANNY MONSTERS THREATEN MY LAND!
MAY YOUR ETERNAL SLEEP BE A PEACEFUL ONE, T'CHAKA MY FATHER!! THIS DAY YOU HAVE BEEN AVENGED!
AT THAT MOMENT, THOUSANDS OF YARDS AWAY, FIVE PAIR OF STARTLED EYES SEE THE ELECTRIFYING UPHEAVAL--
THAT ENTIRE HILL--IT'S BEEN SHATTERED INTO NOTHINGNESS!
WHAT IS IT, REED? WHAT DOES IT MEAN?
I'M NOT SURE, JOHNNY--BUT I HAVE A FEELING THAT THE BLACK PANTHER IS SOMEHOW RESPONSIBLE!
THE SOUND IS DEAFENING!! IT'S LIKE THE END OF THE WORLD! HOLD ME, MY DARLING--!
HEY! LOOK--OVER THERE! A COUPLE MORE OF THEM REFUGEES FROM GODZILLA!
BUT -THEY'RE FADING AWAY!! THEY MUST SOMEHOW BE LINKED TO THE EXPLOSION!
WHATEVER IT WAS THAT HAS BEEN DESTROYED, MUST HAVE BEEN THE THING THAT CREATED THEM!
19

NOTE: OUR LETTERS SECTION APPEARS AFTER NEXT PAGE...



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ITEMS OF LASTING INSIGNIFICANCE FROM THE FOUR CORNERS OF MARVELDOM!

BULLETIN! Talk about a blast! We just had a visit from Peter Asher, of the famous British singing team of Peter and Gordon. Pete's as nice a guy as you'll ever wanna meet, and his Beatle-cut head of flaming red hair is just the coolest! Believe it or not, he's opening a book store in jolly ol' London, and wants to sell our Marvel masterpieces — as well as the works of Shakespeare, Sartre, Salinger, and other equally well-known literary lights! Naturally, we were pleased and flattered, and gave our permish. By the way, Pete told us that the Beatles themselves, who are friends of his, are also Merry Marvelites — which came as no surprise to us. After all, isn't EVERYBODY?

BULLETIN! Most of you know by now that one of our most popular inkers, Fearless Frankie Ray, is really Frank Giacoia, who used to draw the newspaper strip, "Billy Yank and Johnny Reb". Together with Jazzy Johnny Romita, Frankie's helping to lift DAREDEVIL to greater heights of glory than ever, and we're pleased as punch that he's allowing us to sign his rightful name in the credit lines. And how about the job of Ring-A-Ding Romita is doing on your friendly neighborhood SPIDER-MAN, aided by the brilliant delineation of mighty Mickey Demeo? Who SAYS this isn't the Marvel Age of titanic talent?

BULLETIN! Here it is — what you've been waiting for! Our first advance info on the great king-size Annuals we'll be publishing this summer! Although our plans are still subject to change, it looks as though we'll be featuring six terrif' titles for you, with two going on sale in June, two in July, and the final two in August. The six mags are, MILLIE THE MODEL ANNUAL (we know that's gonna break all you super-hero fans up!) and SGT. FURY — both on sale in June. Then, the mighty THOR and MARVEL SUPER HEROES — on sale in July. Followed by the FANTASTIC FOUR and SPIDER-MAN — on sale in August. We can hear you muttering now, "MARVEL SUPER-HEROES! What in the name of Aunt Petunia is THAT?" Well, you know how we love surprises, so just consider it our big surprise for '66, and we'll tell you more about it next ish! Okay?

BULLETIN! You know how we're always saying that Marvel is gonna take over the world? Well, it looks as though our nutty little boast has more truth than poetry in it! This past month alone, more than a hundred newspapers from coast to coast have written feature articles about our lively line of mags — papers such as the N.Y. HERALD TRIBUNE, the CHICAGO DAILY NEWS, the AKRON BEACON JOURNAL, the TOPEKA STATE JOURNAL, the CLEVELAND PRESS, the ALTOONA MIRROR, the MILWAUKEE JOURNAL, the BECKLEY POST HERALD AND REGISTER, RADIO-TELEVISION DAILY, the N.Y. POST, and dozens and dozens more! To all of these great publications, our heartfelt thanks — and to such radio and TV personalities as Tom Dunn of CBS News, and CBS Radio Network's Mike Wallace, our thanks also for interviewing Smilin' Stan over the airwaves! We just hope our leader doesn't start wearing a beret and sunglasses around the office — although it might be a welcome change from seeing him in a Marvel sweat shirt all day long!

BULLETIN! Remember last ish when we asked if you wanted us to continue rapping Brand Echh on the knuckles for swiping everything in our mags except the copyright? Well, all the mail isn't in yet, but while we're waiting for your verdict, we thought we'd quote this little verse which Rascally Roy Thomas brought to our attention — it's by William Butler Yeats, and was written half a century ago — although it might have been written today! Here 'tis:

> "To a Poet Who Would Have Me Praise Certain Bad Poets, Imitators of His and Mine"
>
> You say, as I have often given tongue
> In praise of what another's said or sung,
> 'Twere politic to do the like by these;
> But was there ever dog that praised his fleas?

We somehow feel that Willie Yeats said it a lot better than we could have!

BULLETIN! Just in case a few of you lively literature lovers haven't latched onto them yet, those diminutive but dazzling "mini-books" we mentioned last month are still on sale in vending machines from coast to coast! They're a gas!

THE WRAP-UP! We recently received another letter, on a still different subject, which we felt might be of general interest to frantic ones everywhere, so here goes:

> Dear Stan,
>
> Marvel's high standard of artwork is slowly going down the drain. You most likely figure, since you're so popular, that you can afford to hire new artists to lessen the strain on your old artists. The trouble is that only very few of these new artists have come up to standards expected of Marvel. What's wrong with Kirby, your best? Now he only draws two comics completely, and helps out on a couple of others. He probably could easily do another mag or two. I still buy all your titles, but I hope you'll bring them back up to your old standards. Long live Marvel! Your avid fan,
>
> Jan Shpiegelman
> 4900 Chalgrove Ave.
> Baltimore, Md.

You're better at letter-writing than addition, Jan. King Kirby actually draws three entire strips each month — the F.F., Thor, and Captain America; and, of course, he does the layouts on the Hulk and Agent of Shield. The jolly one also draws about two-thirds of all our adventure covers! We don't know of an artist in the business who turns out as much masterful work as Marvel's Prince of the Pencil — and, we think too much of him to load him down with more work than anybody should have to handle! As for our newer artists, we're mighty happy with them, and judging by the majority of our fan mail, so are most of you. We don't hire new artists because of complacency, Jan — rather, it's the other way around. We do it because we feel that change and growth are important elements of the creative process, and we never want to get in a rut if we can help it. We think it's great to add new artists to our lineup, then to watch them blossom into Marvel madmen before our very eyes each month. And, as ever, we earnestly hope you agree with us. Nuff said!

THE MIGHTY MARVEL CHECKLIST

A Line-Up Of Some Of The Marvel-ous Mags On Sale Right Now!

SPIDER-MAN #39: The Green Goblin discovers Spidey's identity — and you'll discover Gobby's!

AVENGERS #30: Is this the end of the new Avengers? Or the beginning of new greatness? Find out!

X-MEN #22: How can ordinary criminals hope to defeat the X-Men? Just wait'll you see this one!

DAREDEVIL #18: Time for a new villain? We agree with you! So, here comes the Gladiator!

THOR #130: The Thunder God battles Pluto's legions in the netherworld! What more do you want?

STRANGE TALES #147: Shield's HQ attacked by "Them"! And the start of a new series for Dr. Strange!

SUSPENSE #80: Iron Man battles Sub-Mariner — while Captain America closes in on the Red Skull!

ASTONISH #82: Namor battles Iron Man! And wait'll you see the Hulk tangling with Boomerang!

SGT. FURY #32: Has one of the Howlers turned traitor? If so — Fury's life depends upon learning which one!

MARVEL TALES #3: How's this for a parlay — Spider-Man! Thor! Ant-Man! And the Human Torch!

FANTASY MASTERPIECES #3: Now giant-sized! Featuring Captain America from Marvel's Golden Age!

MARVEL COLLECTORS' ITEM CLASSICS #4: The fabulous F.F.! The Incredible Hulk! Iron Man! Doc Strange! How do we do it for only two bits?

Let's meet 26 more M.M.M.S. members!

Henry Bergman, Carpentersville, Ill.
Curtis Firstman, New York, N.Y.
Frank Gillespie, Detroit, Mich.
Michele Bebitch, Trenton, N.J.
Erin Keiser, Middletown, Conn.
Anthony Fusco, Phila., Pa.
Jeff Halberg, Park Forest, Ill.
Bobby Bourge, Abbeville, La.
Allen Bradley, Inman, S.C.
Kevin Anderson, Lincoln, Neb.
William Hine, Wilbraham, Mass.
Kenny Hamilton, Jersey City, N.J.
Garry Guiban, Beaver Dam, Wis.
Richard Becker, Massapequa, N.Y.
Larry Cameron, College Park, Md.
Steven Hurst, Honolulu, Hawaii
James Bigelow, Altoona, Pa.
Lorenzo Banaga, Los Angeles, Cal.
Robert Boudrow, Lynn, Mass.
Anse Brite, Greenville, S.C.
James Fitzgerald, Phila., Pa.
Henry Kozkowski, Detroit, Mich.
Stan Bogal, Detroit, Mich.
Gary Christensen, Corvallis, Ore.
Patrick Connors, Salem, Mass.
Irving Goller, Brooklyn, N.Y.

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ADD 20¢ EXTRA FOR EACH CANADIAN AND EUROPEAN ORDER. PLEASE ALLOW 3 TO 4 WEEKS FOR DELIVERY.

THE M.M.M.S. *STILL* WANTS YOU!

Make out check or money order for $1.00 to: M.M.M.S. MARVEL COMICS GROUP
625 MADISON AVE., NEW YORK, N.Y. 10022

Hi Gang! Let's face it, I'm a Marvel Madman too! Here's my hard earned buck! Rush all your nutty gizmos to....

NAME ____________
ADDRESS ____________
CITY ____________ STATE ____________
ZIP ____________ AGE ____________

School, College or Occupation:

Fantastic Four Fan Page

Send letters to LEE and KIRBY
THE MARVEL COMICS GROUP
SECOND FLOOR 625 MADISON AV.
NEW YORK 10022 N Y

Dear Stan and Jack,

I've just finished F.F. #49 and I must say, it was great!" But one thing bothers me; if Galactus is really the star conqueror he claims to be, why does he have a big "G" on his chest plate? Is the English alphabet universal?

Dan Madaj, 21046 Cyman
Warren, Michigan

It is in Marveldom, Daniel! Anyway, with a name like Galactus, think how silly he'd have looked with a big "W" on his chest!

Dear Stan and Jack,

I must take back all I ever said about continuous stories. At first, I was afraid of your becoming too sparse on plot and art, but this has been proven completely false Then I thought, "What if new readers pick up a copy of F.F. and stop reading it because they have been tossed right into the middle of the plot?" Well, after F.F. #49, I feel if they can't figure it out, it's because F.F. is too good for them. By the way, a very interesting part of your magazine is the letters page. To comment on letters, I myself have felt that Stan's great potential shouldn't be left in the comic book field, even if one of his great creations is "the World's Greatest." When is he going to start writing full-length science fiction novels? If Stan looked back over some of the weird things he has created in a few months, he might even scare himself. Remember: there's only one Stan Lee, but Irving Forbush can always carry on!! If Stan G. stops coloring the F.F., may the Punisher change the "World's Greatest" in your title to "New York's Greatest!" Now to the notice of greatest importance. The Fantastic Four have always fought greater and more evil villains in every issue. Now that you have almost reached the top in greatness, it will be easy to decline If this climb in the F.F. is to go forward, you will have to face many dangers in the road of imagination. And till my stationery kit arrives I bid farewell and Fantastic Success

Charles Hutler, 9 Sheridan Ave.
Kearny, New York

Never farewell, Charlie — merely "see ya around"! Anyway, why should Stan bother writing full-length sci-fix tomes when it's so much more fun paving the road to Marvel madness with our novel-length, full-color spectaculars? We're not gonna be satisfied until the book writers are clamoring to write comic mags — and that day may not be as far off as you think, C. B. — just wait'n see!

Dear Stan and Jack,

Because I am so kind, modest, supreme and great I have decided to save you from Mike [illegible]'s letter in F.F. #49 He says among other things, that Black Bolt is impossible on three grounds. If any one of his three statements could be disproven, it would mean that Black Bolt is possible. One of those statements is that Black Bolt cannot absorb electrons as a source of power because the absorbed electron could only give him about one-half the power that it took him to absorb it. This is quite correct, except for something that no one thought of. Suppose Black Bolt has another source of power with which to absorb the electrons. Since he only gets back one-half of the power that he puts in, his power is reduced by half. However, he is willing to make this sacrifice in order to exchange his other power source for a form of energy which he can use. If it seems impossible to use electricity to power a human being(?), we must all be dead! It just so happens that Brooklyn College sent a lecturer to my school. He said that if "eight candy bars could be oxidized at once, they would yield 1,018,000 amps." In other words, we run on electricity! So, if you are ever told that Black Bolt is incredible, you may answer, "Nay, he is supremely credible!" (With apologies to Silver Surfer!) Off with this science jazz. I wanna tell you that your mags are great, fab, gear, and good even. If they weren't I would never have searched, begged, and suffered to get whole collections of all your superhero mags, plus Sgt Fury. The script of Stan Lee, the cover and art of Kirby and Sinnott, and even the lettering of Sammy Rosen made F.F. #49 a hit! So, as I eagerly await F.F. #50, I say hail Irving Forbush, hail Hydra, and make mine Marvel!

John Bonhomme, 179 Dumont Ave.
Brooklyn, N.Y. 11212

It's kinda hard to answer a letter when your eyes are filled with tears of gratitude, Johnny! To think that one faithful fan — one dauntless Marvelite, would go to such trouble — take such great pains — to prove that Black Bolt is more than a figment of our bullpen's imagination! The senses reel at such loyalty — such devotion to the cause of super-heroics — But, suffice it to say that King Kirby himself has nominated you to be the recipient of our oak-leaf cluster no-prize — and surely no greater homage can be paid a mere mortal — if such indeed you be! Or, in the immortal words of Honest Irving Forbush — "Wha'd he say? Wha'd?"

Dear Stan and Jack,

I'm never going to send any child of *mine* to Metro or Empire State Universities, because said institutions obviously accept only those students whose mental capacity does not exceed that of a cretin. Practical jokes, Stan? Petty feuds, infantile jealousies, and those heart-rending misunderstandings—in college. Leader? In a track 5 High School sophomore class, just maybe—but a college? Please, O shining gem of American storytellers, do not further malign Higher Learning! On bended knee, we implore you: have Jack erase the May panels in which the professors are giving each other hotfoots and the Regents are wearing chicken-inspector badges

Dennis O'Neil, 162 E. 2nd St.
New York, N.Y.

Okay, Denny — they're erased, expunged, and irrevocably eradicated! By the way, aren't you the same Denny O'Neil who's now one of Stan's bright young assistants? Did Rollickin' Roy Thomas put you up to that letter? *Boy!* If we don't keep our eyes on you two cut-ups every second — cheee!

Dear Stan and Jack

What do the illustrator, the inker, and the colorer do? I thought I knew about the first two, but your answer to Kevin Morgan's letter in FF #49 threw me off. By the way,

I want to congratulate you on your art. That sequence where the Watcher sends Torch to Galactus' home galaxy is great, especially the third frame on page 15, where Torch appears in negative. Keep it up (as if you were going to stop!). Mark Mandel, St. John's College Annapolis, Md. 21444

Believe it or not, Mark, ol' Stan is answering your letter in a sunny hotel room in Palm Beach, Florida, where he's taking his first vacation in years! (Some vacation! Fabulous Flo and Jolly Solly send him all the mail and assorted mishmash every day!) So, unfortunately, he doesn't have the copy of F.F. #49 which you alluded to — but anyway, it may come as no shock to you to learn that the colorer — now hold onto your hat — the colorer is the pussycat who *colors* the pages! — And we wish *all* our frantic fans' queries were as easy to answer as yours was, tiger!

Dear Stan and Jack,

Woweee!! That was a pretty good write-up the N. Y. Herald-Tribune gave you in the January 9th Sunday edition. Also, I just finished reading FANTASTIC FOUR #49 . . . It was great, stupendous, superior, startlingly stunning, and as usual, it was good. There's one thing I wanna ask you, Stan . . . Do you *really* fill in the dialogue *after* the picture layout comes in? Hoo boy! But, as always, there must be a method to merry Marvel's madness. F.F. #49 was a cliffhanger, but how are you gonna conclude the whole thing in only one more ish (I hope)? The Silver Surfer is one of the most original characters I've seen. I heard that you have recalled quite a few characters from the bygone era, such as the Human Torch (who was supposed to be a synthetic man and was supposed to have a sidekick named Toro), the Sub-Mariner, who was originally drawn by Bill Everett, Captain America, and a couple of characters invented in 1943 or thereabouts. I read a fan's letter in ish #49 . . . MODEL KITS!!!! Why, that'll be the greatest thing since Stan learned how to type! If you answer this letter seriously, without one smart remark, *I* will send *you* a brand-new, stainless steel tax-deductible chrome-plated one-piece no-prize, super De Luxe model type. (Psst. Stan! It's a no-file for hacking through the bracelets that handcuff you to the typewriter!)

Guy Michel, 548 Riverside Drive
New York, N. Y.

Stan's not merely handcuffed to the typewriter, Guy! By now, he *is* the typewriter! Anyway, if you want serious answers (whatever *they* are), here goes — Yep, the dialogue is written after the pix are drawn! It makes it more confusing that way, and wreaks havoc on the artists' nerves — because they never know what their cavortin' characters will end up saying! Sure, we've revived characters from Marvel's golden age — and sure we're gonna soon flood the market with Aurora Model Kits of our hysterical heroes — just be sure you buy your share, fella — 'cause we'll be watchin' you! Remember, the eyes of Marvel are ever upon thee! (See? *Who says* this isn't the Marvel Age of Serious Letter Answers!)

Dear Stan and Jack,

I am pleased to announce that, with your forthcoming May ishes of F.F. and SPIDEY, I have been reading and collecting these fine mags for one year. Therefore, I shall state all of the MARVELous changes in both mags (of occurrence in both periodicals) that truly set your brand of literature apart from all others: (1) The artwork itself is fantastic! Your soul-shattering titles such as "If This Be Doomsday!" and "The Final Chapter", to name a few. And, if that's not enough, you give us covers to match the titles. But inside the book, you supply us with full-page masterpieces and combination photo-drawings. Just one request, though—puh-lease try to publish more of your fab pin-ups. I'm sure many of your followers, myself included, missed them!! (2) The written content (yer stories!) is more than might be expected of mere mortals, or even people like you! Just about the greatest thing ever to happen to Marveldom is your continued classics!! Why do I call them the greatest? Mainly because, if *you* guys have a continued story, *us* guys receive more of Stan's great plots, more of King Kirby's fantastic artwork, more of some one's BRAAKKS!, WOKS!, and FOOFFS! But, most of all, we receive more nerve-shattering, senses-swimming, eye-catching, mind-wracking suspense! (3) The M.M.M.S., of course, speaks for its beautiful self; so I needn't bend your ear about it. So, as you can plainly see . . . it's been a very good year!!!! Paul Kalenak, 3543 Vineland Ave. Astabula 4, Ohio

And it's been a dandy few minutes for us as we read your liltin' letter, Paul — many thanks.

Dear Stan and Jack,

What have you done to the Watcher? In FANTASTIC FOUR #48 and 49, if I were to judge by your illustration, he'd better cease watching and start doing and dieting. He is positively pudgy. Actually, my son and I are Marvel maniacs from 'way back. He agrees with Johnny that Crystal is extra special. (I thought she resembled Jean of the X-Men.) And Sub-Mariner is an old favorite of mine from the 40's. Don't know how you dream up the plots, but I enjoy all your stories very much!! Incidentally, please add my name to the skillions who are waiting for Reed to find a way for Ben to switch to the Thing when necessary and back to Ben when danger is over. Although, the way your stories have been going, he still wouldn't be Ben too often. As you no doubt have guessed, I enjoy your endeavors very much!

Mrs. Sarah Doll, 539 Silver St.
Manchester, N.H.

And, as you no doubt have guessed, we enjoy the priceless privilege of having fabulous fans like you, Mrs. D.! But, enough small talk. Since you mentioned it, we've got to get busy and put the Watcher on a diet — that is, as soon as we learn to pronounce the names of the extraterrestrial foods he eats!

Dear Stan and Jack,

F.F. #49 was a great story and the villains were even greater, but don't let Alicia fall for the Silver Surfer. By the way, where did the Surfer learn to surf à la Waikiki Beach? I'd like to see the Thing, Hulk, Sub-Mariner and Spider-Man team up to fight some aliens or some super powered villain. Oh yeah, how come sometimes, the Watcher is about four feet tall, and the other times he's a giant? Is it because he can change his size or are you guys making boo-boos again?

Bill Duff, 507 East Main St.
Bellevue, Ohio 44811

Thanks for giving us an out, Billy! Now all we have to say is — sure, he can change his size! (Unless we wanna tell the truth! Then, we've gotta own up to the fact that none of us can ever remember how big that sheet-wearin' swinger is supposed to be!)

Dear Stan and Jack,

Wah-hoo!! Only seconds ago I was speaking to the editor of *Existential Psychiatry* Magazine and director of the American Ontoanalytic Association; and he said that, if it were possible, he would like to publish the line from F.F. ANNUAL #3 ("The Impossible Man") which reads, "Name? We Poppupians have no names—we know who we are!" Imagine! Marvel quoted in a highly-respected national psychiatry magazine! 25,000 copies distributed nationwide to the elite upper crust of America!! $#"%'&#*! Pardon me, I'm getting so excited that I'm beginning to become incoherent! I told him that he just had to let me write you, so here it is. My one worry is: Do you think his mag is classy enough to have a quote from Marvel?

Scott Palmer, *Journal of the American Ontoanalytic Association*
300 No. State St., Suite 5908
Chicago, Ill. 60610

As far as we're concerned, Scotty boy, *no* mag is! But, if we haveta be quoted by somebody, it might as well be an Existential Psychiatry pub — whatever that means! (Actually, although we're trying to sound blasé, we're really kinda thrilled! We just hope that what they wanna do is quote us — and not analyze us!)

NEXT ISH: By popular demand! (This guy we know, named Sam Popular, demanded it!) The Human Torch heads for the land of the Inhumans, to free the girl named Crystal! But, on the way, he encounters — aww no! It's too good to tell now! But, we can tell you that the F.F. sort-of go it alone for a while, in one of the most pulse-pounding, provocative, pace-setting thrillers of the season! So, if you can spare the time, why not join them? It might just turn out to be one of the most exciting experiences of your life!

I have done it for millions. HIGH SCHOOL AND COLLEGE STUDENTS, LABORERS & EXECUTIVES, DOCTORS, LAWYERS & TEACHERS

Are **YOU SKINNY** like I was?

a sickly skeleton who developed a streamlined physique and great physical endurance

LET ME SHOW YOU FREE HOW TO DEVELOP

SPACEMAN STRENGTH AND ENDURANCE

Ben Rebhuhn

Yes! I'll Show You By My Quick, Easy Methods How To:

ADD POWERFUL NEW INCHES OF MUSCLES around YOUR ARMS, CHEST, LEGS, BACK, etc.

How to BECOME A WINNING ATHLETE!
How to WIN FEMALE ADMIRATION!
How to BEAT ANY BULLY!
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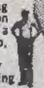
or LOSE up to 50 LBS. of UGLY DANGEROUS FAT

And become A REAL HE-MAN like MANY THOUSANDS of my pupils in a few minutes FUN a day.

WHICH OF MY 181,000 PUPILS WOULD YOU LIKE TO BE?

I GAINED 60 LBS. OF SHAPELY MIGHTY MUSCLES

BEFORE



Mailing Coupon I was a 125 lb. 6 ft. skinny weakling

says JOHN SILL

I added 7 inches to MY CHEST, 3½ INCHES to EACH ARM. No, Pal! You don't have to be a chicken-chested skinny weakling like I was only a few weeks ago.

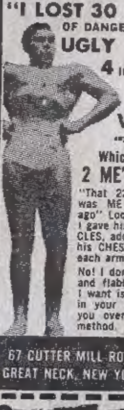
This Can Be YOU in a Short Time!

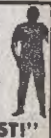
AFTER

Mailing Coupon 185 lb. HEAD-TO-TOE HE-MAN POPULAR ATHLETE You can be, too!

"I LOST 30 LBS. OF DANGEROUS UGLY FAT 4 INCHES OFF MY WAIST!"

says Felipe Mendoza





Which of these 2 ME'S is YOU?

"That 220 lb. FAT-BOY was ME a few weeks ago" Look at him NOW! I gave him MIGHTY MUSCLES, added 7 inches to his CHEST, 3 inches on each arm!

No! I don't care how fat and flabby you are. All I want is minutes a day in your home to make you over by the same method.

Be a HERO of MEN, IDOL of WOMEN

Yes, in thrilling minutes a day, in your home, my rapid-fire, easy-as-abc methods start building you into a super-man the very first night. I'll show you how to build 18-inch arms of might, a 45-inch heroic chest housing tireless lungs; wide, manly shoulders; broad, brawny back tapering to slender waist with punch-proof stomach muscles, legs of endless endurance.

I'll stake my 20 years' reputation, as "greatest builder of he-men", on the amazing results I get for YOU. I sign my name to seal this promise.

Sincerely Yours, Ben Rebhuhn

american bodybuilding club

67 CUTTER MILL ROAD
GREAT NECK, NEW YORK

MEN! Stop being the weakling women despise.

"I go for an ABC-built man. You're proud to be seen with him. He oozes out masculinity. Every feminine woman desires a manly man who satisfies her innate needs completely, a man to protect her in any emergency, who can bear her children that inherit his health, looks, vitality."

How do YOU look walking on the beach with your girl or wife?

Tony Pascarella AFTER

Please do NOT send coupon if you are less than 14 years old.

LAST CHANCE TO GET ALL FREE!

- a space-man FULCRUM BAR-BELL
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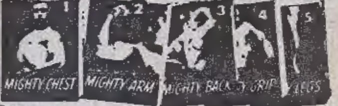
FREE!

SAVES YOU HUNDREDS OF DOLLARS IN HEAVY, COSTLY APPARATUS.



Dear Ben,

RUSH me absolutely FREE these 5 world-famous, picture-packed Test Courses included inside your PHOTO BOOK of Famous Strong Men once weak like me. Millions sold for $5. each.

☐ I'm enclosing a quarter for shipping and handling these 5 Courses FREE to me.

☐ I'm enclosing a dime for shipping and handling these 5 Courses to me FREE. (Enclose whichever coin you can best afford.)

Also let me know how to get FREE Lever and Fulcrum Bells and FREE Courses on Sports, Self-Defense, Stunts, etc.

Name.. Age.........

Address..

City.................................... Zone......... State.........

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SELECTED FOR YOU BY EXPERTS. This choice fish-getting tackle, used by experts, contains nationally famous brands. Each item carefully chosen—everything you need for all types of fishing. Deadly lures that are all time favorites. A veteran angler or an occasional fisherman can be proud of this precision-built kit. You can go fishing at once. Compare! You will not find a bargain like this anywhere.

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☐ Ship C.O.D. I will pay C.O.D. charges & postage.

To Canada: $14.95 including Postage & Duty

NORMAN ROCKWELL—America's most beloved artist. He is a founder and member of the Guiding Faculty of the Famous Artists Schools.

"We're looking for people who like to draw"

says NORMAN ROCKWELL

Today hundreds of men and women who never thought they could be artists are working at easels and drawing boards, making pictures and getting well paid for it. They all can thank a group of famous artists who have devoted much of their time and talent to helping others find success in art.

Some of the People the Famous Artists Have Helped

Carl Koch was an 18 year old apprentice in a Chicago art studio when he enrolled. Today he prepares ads for such companies as General Motors and Firestone—has won five gold medals.

Howard Sanden of Minneapolis took the Course while still in high school. He is now a successful artist—last year he and his wife traveled through Europe and the Middle East on important art assignments.

Paul Sullivan enrolled at 14. His Famous Artists training helped him work his way through college.

Stan Bowen, father of three children, was trapped in a dull, low-paying job. By studying with FAS he became a sought-after illustrator, has opened his own studio.

With Famous Artists training Rosemary Roberts was hired by a top department store as an artist—with a big chance to advance.

Oregon housewife Helen Tryk lives 150 miles from the nearest big city. But she does fashion illustration, has her own studio, runs an art workshop, does portraits.

A Plan to Help Others

It started over 18 years ago when a group of America's most successful artists—men like Albert Dorne, Norman Rockwell, Jon Whitcomb, Al Parker and Stevan Dohanos—met in New York City. They knew that all over America there were people who liked to draw who could be turned into good artists. Albert Dorne asked, "Why can't we give these people the training they need—including all the trade secrets and know-how we've learned over the years?"

He suggested a new kind of art school—a home study art school—that would give talented people the best professional art training, no matter where they live.

The famous artists agreed. Taking time from their busy careers, they created a remarkable series of art lessons covering every aspect of drawing and painting. They illustrated their lessons with over 5,000 "here's-how" illustrations. The lessons start from scratch and cover every skill a top artist needs. Finally, they developed a wonderful way to give each student personal correction and advice all through his training.

The famous artists with the School are not surprised at the success of their students. The opportunities open to successful artists today are enormous. The School continually gets calls from all over the country asking for practical well-trained students—not geniuses—who can step into full-time or part-time art jobs. And practical, thorough training is what the School offers.

Famous Artists Talent Test

To find others with art talent worth developing, the Famous Artists created a 12-page talent test. Thousands paid to take this test, but now the School offers and grades it free. Men and women who do well on the test—or offer other evidence of art talent—may enroll in the School. But there's no obligation. Simply mail the coupon below.

FOUNDING FACULTY OF FAMOUS ARTISTS SCHOOLS

NORMAN ROCKWELL	FRED LUDEKENS
JON WHITCOMB	BEN STAHL
AL PARKER	ROBERT FAWCETT
STEVAN DOHANOS	AUSTIN BRIGGS
GEORGE GIUSTI	HAROLD VON SCHMIDT
PETER HELCK	ALBERT DORNE

Famous Artists Schools
Studio 5039, Westport, Conn.

I would like to find out whether I have art talent worth developing. Please send me, without obligation, your Famous Artists Talent Test and information about your courses.

Mr. / Mrs. / Miss ________ *Age*____
◀ *Circle one and please print*

*Street*________

*City*________

*State*________ *Zip*____ *(if known)*